

No. 10

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 33)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Comprehensive Health Planning

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland Congressional Delegation to amend PL 93-641, dealing with comprehensive health planning to give local health planning authorities the power to make more meaningful decisions with regard to health planning on the local level.

WHEREAS, PL 93-641, enacted into law by the 93rd Congress gives to the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, complete and unlimited power over the location of health facilities, the scope of health services, the determination as to need for hospital beds and facilities in each of the 50 states, the control of federal funding assigned to Maryland; and

WHEREAS, This statutory power provides for no local accountability on the part of the persons and groups who will establish health policies for the people of the various states; and

WHEREAS, In spite of local needs, wishes or desires, the Health Systems Agencies, designated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare can exercise complete control, without let or hinder, over health services in the five separate Health Service Areas in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, This type of unbridled authority is unheard of in our Democratic system; and

WHEREAS, Unrestricted decisions will be made by persons who may have no identification or responsibility to local citizens; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the above, these Health Systems Agencies also have authority and power for the allocation of all federal funds involving health services, research and care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That The Maryland Delegation to the U.S. Congress be urged to prepare and introduce appropriate legislation to amend PL 93-641 so that it will:

1. Provide for accountability to and input from local groups and officials, including but not limited to boards of directors of health care institutions;